(c) whether it is also a fact that statutory auditors for the year 1986-87 were given tax audit work during the days when audit reports were being finalised;

(d) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether any responsibility for these serious lapses has been fixed; if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) In view of (a) above—question does not arise.

(c) and (d) The statutory auditors for the year 1986-87 were appointed as Tax Auditors for 1987-88 in February, 1988 for ensuring timely submission of tax audit report to Income-tax authorities.

(e) Does not arise.

Technology for cultivation of potatoes

3118. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA:
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:
SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Potato Research Institute has developed a new technology for growing potatoes on a large scale;

(b) if so, what are the salient features of the new technology developed by the CPRI:

(c) to what extent the above technology would be useful for the small farmers in the country; and

(d) what are the locations and States where this technology would be available?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARI KRISHNA SHASTRI) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Central Potato Research Institute has developed new technologies for rapid multiplication of virus tested stocks through sprouts, micropropagation, tuberlet production etc. Sensitive methods for virus detection are also being used. The technology for raising commercial crop by using true potato seed (TPS) has yielded four promising hybrids which are under multilocation trials.

(c) The above technologies would be useful to potato growers as these will help in providing healthy and disease free seeds, which are easy to store and transport. These will also reduce cost of cultivation and release seed tubers for consumption.

(d) Once fully tested, the technologies will be available through out the reduce cost of cultivation and release country.

Appointment of Tax Auditors of NCCF

3119. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that M|s. R. K. Sharma and Associates and M|s. K. K. Goel and Associates, Chartered Accountants were appointed as Tax Auditors of NCCF in July, 1987;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the tax audit report submitted by M|s. R. K. Sharma and Associates has highlighted serious irregularities including shortfall of Rs. 9 crore in the stocks; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard and what action has been taken against the erring officials for these irregularities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The appointment of M|s R. K. Sharma and Associates was terminated by the NCCF on 12.7.1988 because of their failure in submission of tax audit report in time. Their report received after the due date was, therefore, returned by the NCCF.

Grant to NCCF to meet consultancy expenses

3120. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any annual grant is given to NCCF to meet various expenses of its Consultancy Cell for consumers;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that NCCF has closed the said C and P Units and is utilising the services of Consultants in trading and thus misutilising grants;

(c) whether it is also a fact that in the current year no study has been undertaken in C and P Cell as against more than 100 studies during the last year; and

(d) if so, whether any responsibility has been fixed on this account and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. However, two Senior Consultants have been entrusted with business work, in addition to their own consultancy duties.

(c) No, Sir. 28 studies have been carried out during the cooperative year 1987-88, as against 22 in the previous year, besides their normal promotional and consultancy work.

(d) Does not arise.

Supply of edible oil by NCCF to M/s Manipur Wholesale Store, Imphal

3121. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether edible oil worth Rs. 24.19 lakhs was delivered by NCCF, Calcutta to a Private party for transfering the same to M|s. Manipur Wholesale Store, Imphal but the said Store had not returned the documents declining to make payments for not having received the goods;

(b) whether any enquiry to fix up the responsibility has been conducted, if so, the findings thereof, and follow up action taken thereon; and

(c) whether any FIR has been lodged with the police, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir. A Private Transporter was engaged for delivery.

(b) and (c) The police enquiry revealed that no misappropriation had taken place in supply of the goods. The Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies has passed orders on 20.6.1988 in favour of NCCF for recovery of an amount of Rs. 21.58 lakhs from the State Federation alongwith interest from the date of delivery of goods till the date of recovery of amount. NCCF have also initiated departmental enquiries against the concerned Regional Manager for his lapses.

Behaviour of Managing Director, NCCF

3122. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state: